



**Meade County FireWise Program  
"Hire a Veteran Initiative"**

**Funded by the Bureau of Land Management**



"Hire a Veteran, train a Veteran, and you will help a Veteran transition back into civilian society"

The Meade County / Bureau of Land Management "Veteran in the Woods" initiative has been in operation for over a year. A total of nine veterans have been employed under this program with five of them successfully transitioned into full-time employment and one into college via veteran benefits.

While employed under this program, the veterans are afforded multiple opportunities to train in wildland fire skills - in addition to their respective career fields of interest. Focused efforts find them educated on resume writing and career interview techniques. Additionally, they are given one on one time with veteran service resources to ensure they are fully educated on all veteran programs; to include funding/employment opportunities.

Over the past year, the Veteran Firewise program has treated (FireWise) 22 private properties. These residential properties have benefited from tree thinning and fuel reductions to resist the threat from wildfire.

Well received by the community; FireWise projects continue to be coordinated with Meade County residents. There is a landowner cost share of 20% which assists in funding the program.



The Meade County FireWise program is funded, assisted and guided by Travis Lipp, Fire Management Specialist out of the Belle Fourche, SD - BLM Field Office.

March 2014

More Information Available at:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs156/1109272013118/archive/1116809028254.html>